

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

Request to Acknowledge Receipt of All Priority Documents:

Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgement of receipt of all certified copies of priority documents. Applicant notes that none of boxes 12(a)-12(c) in Form PTOL-326 of the Office Action mailed January 23, 2004 has been checked.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Donohue et al (U.S. '480, hereinafter "Donohue") in view of Christensen et al (U.S. '543, hereinafter "Christensen"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. The combination of Donohue and Christensen fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, the combination fails to teach or suggest "each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system...and applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the or each template file is applied," as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents. Similar comments apply to independent claims 5, 13 and 14 and their respective dependents. The combination of Donohue and Christensen also fails to teach or suggest in a computer file

system storing both one or more content files and one or more template files and being divided into directories, locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system, and applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, as required by independent claims 15 and 16.

Content files are stored in the present invention in directories. The directory in which the content file is stored is used to determine which template file is to be used for templating the content file. That is, a template file is associated with a directory and then content files to be templated by that template file are stored in the directory with which the template is associated.

Donohue relates to a method and system for delivering customized documents over the Internet. A web server 10 stores both a data source 12, comprising a list of names and corresponding values, and document templates 24 which include dynamic tags and flow directives. Typically, the server 10 receives requests over the Internet, the requests identifying desired documents to be delivered. Based on the desired document, the server 10 selects a document template 24, populates it with data from data source 10, and delivers the newly-generated document to the client computer 2 that sent the request.

The Office Action alleges “The ‘content files’ corresponds to the ‘documents’ that stored in the data source 12 in Fig. 1 (col. 7 lines 35-44).” (See page 3, lines 1-2 of the Office Action). Applicant disagrees with the allegation that the claimed term “content files” corresponds to the term “documents” of Donohue. The claimed term “content

files” refers to the information-bearing content files that are stored in directories and to which are applied template files associated with those directories. In contrast, the term “document” in Donohue refers to the output generated when a document template is populated with data from data source 12. This output is personalized depending on the identity of the requesting party. “Documents” are not stored in data source 12 since they do not actually exist until the template file is activated and populated with data from data source 12. Once generated, documents are sent to the client computer that requested them. The passages of Donohue (e.g., see col. 5, lines 52-67) identified in the Office Action support this point. The term “content files” recited in the claims therefore does not correspond to the term “documents” disclosed by Donohue. Contrary to the allegations of the Office Action, Donohue therefore fails to teach “locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system.”

The Office Action alleges that col. 5, lines 25-31 of Donohue discloses “associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored.” (See page 3, lines 3-4 of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees with this allegation. While this portion of Donohue does refer to storing document templates in a directory structure, there is no disclosure of one or more content files being stored in a directory structure.

The Office Action alleges that col. 7, lines 15-22 of Donohue discloses the claim limitation of “applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory.” (See page 3, lines 7-8 of the Office Action). The

Office Action further alleges that col. 10, lines 43-48 of Donohue discloses the claim limitation “wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the or each template file is applied.” (See page 3, lines 9-10 of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees with each of these allegations. As explained above, Donohue fails to disclose that one or more content files are stored in a directory and that template files are associated with each directory in which a content file is stored. Col. 7, lines 15-22 and col. 10, lines 43-48 identified by the Office Action simply confirm the generation of documents using templates 24 populated with data from data source 12.

Donohue therefore discloses a data source 12 which stores name and value pairs. (See col. 7, lines 34-58). While Donohue discloses a directory system, only the templates themselves (not content data which is stored in data source 12) are stored in the directory system. Thus, when a user requests an HTML file by entering a URL specifying an HTML file by its location within a directory system, that file does not actually exist at that time. Instead, the system in Donohue looks for a template 24 stored in the directory specified in the URL and separately looks for data to be used by the template from data source 12. To identify the correct data to use from data source 12, some mechanism is used other than the directory of templates 24. Two exemplary mechanisms are described at col. 10, lines 31-34, which relates to using the internet address of a user or by having the registered user log-in. This presumably yields a user id from which the rest of the data associated with that user may be recovered. The user data found in this way is

placed into a “container” which is passed to the template which parses the container to generate, dynamically, an HTML file. This HTML file is then finally passed to the requesting user as a document. Thus, at no time is a template file applied to a content file stored in that directory.

The Office Action suggests that it would have been obvious to substitute the name-value list (stored in the data source of Donohue) with metadata content files stored in Christensen. This suggested modification would simply result in one list (the content file in Christensen) being substituted in place of another (the name-value list of Donohue). Even assuming arguendo that the teachings of Christensen and Donohue were combined as proposed by the Office Action, the combination would still fail to teach or suggest locating content files, each content file being stored in a directory of a computer file system, associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, and applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-16 are not “obvious” over Donohue in view of Christensen and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

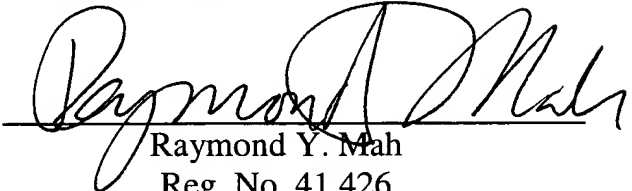
Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes

BAGLEY et al.
Application No. 09/889,349
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that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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